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Rainy days ahead as Cyclone Tauktae intensifies

Red alert in Kodagu for tomorrow ▶ NDRF team ready to rescue trapped people

Madikeri / Mysuru, May 15 (Akshay, Prasad & BCT)- With the deep depression developed over the Lakshadweep in the Arabian Sea intensifying into cyclonic storm Tauktae, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall in the next 36 to 48 hours in South Karnataka including the districts of Mysuru and Kodagu. A red alert has been sounded in Kodagu where people living in hilly areas have been asked to move to safer places.

The cyclone has come at a time when the districts are battling the ferocious second wave of Coronavirus — a sort of double whammy to the already stretched and worked up administrations. Cyclone Tauktae is expected to hit the Karnataka coast today evening with winds gusting at the speed of up to 80 kmph coupled with rain.

By the early hours of Monday, the cyclone could boast of maximum sustained surface wind speeds worth 150-160 kmph, gusting to 175 kmph. Under its influence, heavy rainfall has been forecast over Kerala and adjoining ghat districts of Karnataka from today to Monday. Residents are urged to take action in order to protect themselves from extreme weather conditions.

(See RAINY on page 7)

A 25-member National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team from 10th Battalion Guntur in Andhra Pradesh has arrived in Kodagu to rescue people from possible floods and landslides. This time they have a special outfit with a headgear stretching up to their stomachs that protects them from rain and also from COVID virus transmission during rescue missions.

Tauktae means 'gecko', a distinctively vocal lizard

The word Tauktae has been suggested by Myanmar, which means 'gecko', a distinctively vocal lizard, in the Burmese language. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) maintains rotating lists of names, which are appropriate for each Tropical Cyclone basin. If a cyclone is particularly deadly or costly, then its name is retired and replaced by another.

Generally, the name list is proposed by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) of the WMO members of a specific region. Naming tropical cyclones came into the practice for quick identification of the storms in warning messages because names are presumed to be easier to remember than latitude and longitude numbers and technical terms. Also, names make it easier for the media to report on cyclones and increase community preparedness.

Doctor returns favour to COVID Hospital by working for free

- Mysuru District Hospital saves his critical mother
- Son extends his leave to save lives of other patients
- Dr. Harsha of Mandya is pursuing his MD at Chandigarh

Mysuru, May 15 (RK&BCT)-The favour of invaluable service to humanity can only be returned through invaluable service. Especially at these critical COVID times where lives are saved and money is not everything. Lives are precious, so is the selfless service rendered by doctors to fight the contagion.

A young doctor from Chandigarh is putting in long hours of work for free at the Mysuru District Hospital that houses hundreds of COVID patients.

Reason: This Hospital has saved the life of his mother at a time when other doctors had washed their hands of as the patient was in a critical state.

This human-interest story is of Dr. Harsha, a resident of Maddur in Mandya, who is pursuing his Doctor of Medicine (MD) in Radiodiagnosis at Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh. He was working at Chandigarh even as Punjab has been ravaged by the virus.

*GOOD SAMARITAN: **Dr. Harsha***

(See DOCTOR on page 3)

Dearth of doctors

Dr. H.R. Rajeshwari, District Surgeon

Dr. Harsha has even extended his leave for another 10 days and will serve the patients till he flies to Chandigarh where his services are needed too. His service is most needed at the District Hospital where there is good infrastructure and facilities. **But the Hospital is facing a severe shortage of doctors though the authorities and Ministers have been saying that there is no dearth of doctors. In this situation, Dr. Harsha's service is invaluable.**

Dr. Rajeshwari told *SOM* that the District Hospital is in dire need of more doctors and specialists and every extra hand can make much difference. "We had called for walk-in interviews to appoint six doctors and nurses and had advertised thrice. Sadly no one came for the interviews and no one is ready to work in a COVID Hospital. At this juncture, Dr. Harsha's contribution is like a gift in critical times," she said.

"Many are reluctant even after we offered a handsome salary and perks. We all must realise that every patient we treat is someone's loved one. Hence, we must shed our reservations and help people in this critical phase and Dr. Harsha is a role model," she added.

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Saturday 15th May 2021

COVID: Medical kits must reach home isolated within 1 hour

Govt. to procure 5 lakh kits

Bengaluru, May 15 (SSV)- In order to provide medical isolation kits to the home isolated, 5 lakh kits will be procured. Steps will be taken to ensure these kits reach the doorstep of the infected person within one hour of getting the RT-PCR test result, said Deputy Chief Minister and State COVID Ministerial Task Force Chairman Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan.

Speaking to reporters here on Thursday, he said the authorities had been directed to ensure the systematic delivery of home isolation medical kits starting from May 15. In most cases by the time the results arrive, the pandemic will be in the inflammation stage. So, at this stage what they require was anti-inflammatory treatment. Hence, this medical kit will mainly have anti-biotics, anti-virals, vitamin tablets that are prescribed for anti-inflammation. In addition, this will also have steroid tablets which could be used in the later stage if the symptoms are not mitigated, he said.

He said those who have COVID symptoms need not wait to start taking the anti-inflammatory medicines till the result comes. It is advisable to begin taking the anti-inflammatory drugs as soon as the symptoms are seen. People who have cough, cold, vomiting, diarrhoea should not be misled by taking them lightly and decide it as a common health problem. In this changed situation, most of these cases are turning out to be COVID positive. The citizens must be alert and mentally prepared to fight the pandemic with the help of anti-inflammatory medicines, he stated.

Oxygen sufficient

Dr. Ashwathnarayan said the allocation of oxygen made for the State is sufficient for the existing number of oxygenated beds. But, when the number of beds is going to be increased they will require additional oxygen. To meet this higher demand, action will be taken to procure oxygen, he said.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

There have been knee-jerk decisions by the Modi government to buy vaccines from the global, specifically US, market because it has become evident that the indigenous production of vaccines by the Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech may not be sufficient to meet the target of vaccination of nearly a billion people.

The pandemic-ravaged India of 2021 is not the India of the mid-1960s, when it depended on shipments of wheat under PL480. It is better placed today than it was 50-60 years ago. But it must be realised, especially among those in power and those who are in the business of projecting 'Brand India', that the country has a long way to go before it is possible for ordinary Indians not to have to desperately run from hospital to hospital for a bed with oxygen or ventilator. Everything should be done to remedy this woeful lack of capacity.

The pouring in, and official acceptance, of international aid after a long gap is a grim reminder that India is still neither powerful nor rich enough to serve the needs of its own people fully on its own.

There can be no national pride when the wails of the people are much too loud to be drowned by propaganda, or by the stony silence of governments. Cynical spinmeisters cannot turn the generous global aid to COVID-distressed India into a tribute to India, the emerging power. — *Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr in Deccan Herald*

NEWS SPARKLERS

This spider takes fallen leaf shape to avoid predators

Vietnam: Poltys mouhoti, aka the Rolled-up Leaf Spider, is a fascinating arachnid that uses incredible camouflage to protect itself from predators during the day.

Native to Vietnam, but also spotted in other Asian countries like Cambodia, Thailand or Malaysia, the aptly-named rolled-up leaf spider is part of the Poltys genus of spiders, which numbers 43 known sub-species, most of which have this amazing ability to mimic plant parts as a self-defense mechanism.

They accomplish this by tucking their legs in towards their abdomen and extending a long, stem-like appendage outward. Even their body has a brown and green coloration and a shape reminiscent of a broken branch, which enhances the camouflage even more.

Suck-on gadget to give coveted V-shaped face

Beijing: A small, oval-shaped face with a pointy V-line chin is one of the most coveted female beauty features in many Asian countries and they can get it by simply sucking on a bottle-shaped gadget for 10 minutes a day.

One can buy anything online these days. This weird beauty accessory on Chinese shopping platform TaoBao help reshape users faces, if they suck on it for just 10 minutes a day. The bottle-shaped gadget vibrates up to 880 times per minute and it's these vibrations that stimulate facial muscles and reshape your face.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Myth: Pain is caused by injury

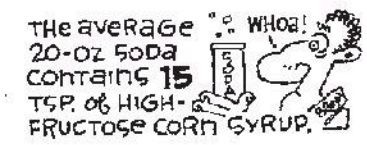
Back pain is not always caused by injury. The spine and its surrounding muscles, tendons and ligaments comprise a well-designed structure that is incredibly strong, flexible and supportive. It is not always injury that causes pain. Disc degeneration, diseases, infection, and even inherited conditions can make your back hurt, too.

By Dr. Ravikiran - Consultant Orthopedics and Joint Replacement Surgeon

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*



High-fructose corn syrup is among the most toxic foods that we consume. It is linked to obesity, diabetes, heart disease and fatty liver disease. Simply removing sugar from the diet and replacing it with healthy natural alternatives goes a long way toward enhancing health.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	MAY 13	MAY 14
Day's Positive Cases	1,260	2,340
Total Positive Cases	1,05,487	1,07,827
Day's Discharges	1,249	3,624
Total Discharges	88,091	91,715
Day's Deaths	15	12
Total Deaths	1,370	1,382
Total Active Cases	16,026	14,730

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

Safai Karmachari Commission

Chairman on a three-day tour from May 18

Mysuru, May 15- Karnataka Safai Karmachari Commission Chairman Kote M. Shivanna will be on a three-day visit to the city from May 18.

Shivanna will arrive in the city from Bengaluru at 6 pm on May 18 and stay for the night at Jaladarshini Guest House. On May 19, he will hold a meeting with officials on the measures taken for the well-being of MCC Pourkarmikas during COVID crisis, at the MCC Hall at 12 noon, following which he will take part in another meeting over the same issue concerning Pourakarmikas working in Gram Panchayats, at ZP Hall at 3 pm. He will stay overnight at Jaladarshini Guest House on Hunsur Road.

Shivanna will leave for Bengaluru by road at 9 am on May 20. The Commission Secretary R. Ramaa too will take part in the meetings, according to a press release issued by the Office of the Commission.

REALLY...?

- *Thomas Edison built the first power plant, and in 1882 his Pearl Street Power Station in New York sent electricity to 85 buildings.*
- *The first successful electric car was built in 1891 by American inventor William Morrison.*
- *Electricity travels at the speed of light, about 300,000 kilometres per second.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Tintu : *Do you have a girlfriend dude?*
Chintu: *Yea !*
Tintu: *Nice where is she from?*
Chintu: *From a different nation.*
Tintu : *Oh really? Which nation?*
Chintu: *My imagi-nation!!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 73.27
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 103.30
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 19.95
1 Euro	= Rs. 88.98

VOICE OF THE READER

Sanitisation Drive: A suggestion

Sir,

Now, it is certain that various agencies of the Government have become desperate and carries out thoughtless and wasteful exercises. One such is the sanitisation drive at Agrahara *(SOM* dated May 10, P-5). Many of the fellow readers might have forgotten the "Sanitisation Tunnel" of last year. Fortunately, it was abandoned, long back. Pity, there is no one single Nodal Authority to guide the various agencies. The result: Chaos?

COVID-19 virus remains suspended in air in closed and semi-closed areas and, virtually, loses its potency in open areas. Therefore, what is required is to sanitise common areas like wash-rooms, corridors, staircases in the commercial complexes and office buildings, market places, bus shelters, etc. Washing the roads will just clean them. For that, just, ordinary water will do. But, at this juncture, it is not a priority.

So, I request our Mayor to please abandon sanitisation of the roads, immediately, and take-up the right exercise.

—K. N. Krishna Prasad
Lakshmipuram
12.5.2021

Popularise COVID Mitra in rural areas: DC

Mysuru, May 15 (SSV)- Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri has called upon officers to take the help of ASHA and Anganwadi workers to popularise the concept of COVID Mitra in rural areas by visiting every houses in the District.

Reviewing the COVID situation in the District at Zilla Panchayat auditorium here yesterday, she said they must examine whether those who had visited COVID Mitras were following 'Pancha Sutra' strictly. To do this, the services of Anganwadi and ASHA workers could be utilised. They must also cross check whether the home isolated patients were taking medicine given at COVID Mitras time to time.

She said 135 Oxygen Concentrators have been received and the same will be dispatched to all Taluks. However, it must be used very carefully, she added.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. B.S. Manjunathaswamy said those COVID patients who have recovered after following 'Pancha Sutra' must be asked to share their experiences with radio or local media to instil confidence in other patients. This will have a positive impact on COVID Mitra, he added.

The meeting was attended by Tahsildar K.R. Rakshith, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer M.S. Ramesh, DHO Dr. T. Amarnath, Dr. Shivaprasad, Dr. Chidambara, Dr. L. Ravi and others.

The unique 5-point plan or COVID Mitra Pancha Sutra is as follows:

1. As soon as you get COVID symptoms, isolate yourselves at home and stay away from family. Mandatorily wear a mask.

2. Take medication in consultation with your doctor and inhale hot steam. Sleep in prone position — patients are made to lie on their abdomen to boost their oxygen levels. Proning has its immediate benefits. Have healthy and nutritious food.

3. Instead of panicking and struggling to get into a hospital following symptoms, call COVID Mitra Helpline 0821-2424111. In case of requirement, beds will be allotted and patients taken to the hospitals.

4. Don't wait for RT-PCR tests. Call the doctor and start taking antibiotics. Chest CT Scan, CRP-D-Dimer tests must be done.

5. COVID pandemic cannot be curbed if all people go for RT-PCR tests. Only precautionary measures taken in five days after symptoms surface, consultation with doctors and timely medication will help.

Doctor returns favour to COVID Hospital by working for free

(Continued from page 1)

VOLUNTARY SERVICE: ***Dr. Harsha in PPE suit seen with Dr. Rajeshwari at Mysuru District COVID Hospital this morning.***

Dr. Harsha's move to serve the District Hospital for free — thanks to his professional commitment — has come in for praises at a time when Mysuru is grappling with crisis and hunting for competent doctors to treat critically ill patients. A fortnight back, Dr. Harsha's mother, 48-year-old Rajalakshmi, tested positive and Dr. Harsha applied leave for 10 days and rushed to Maddur.

As his mother had breathing difficulties, Dr. Harsha opted for CT scan and MRCP scan and as the lungs were severely infected, he realised that his mother needed an ICU bed with ventilator. Next began his hunt for the ICU bed where he desperately tried at Mandya and in Bengaluru. Even after using all his contacts and himself being a doctor, Dr. Harsha failed to get a bed for Rajalakshmi.

A desperate situation

Seeing her condition, several doctors washed their hands of the case saying that she was too critical and could not be saved. Heartbroken, a desperate Dr. Harsha tried to get an ICU bed in some private hospitals in Mysuru but without any success. Then he called District Surgeon Dr. H.R. Rajeshwari under whose supervision the District Hospital works.

Moved by his mother's condition, Dr. Rajeshwari realised **that the situation is so pathetic that even doctors, who struggle day and night to fight the pandemic, are not able to get beds for their loved ones.** She agreed to admit Rajalakshmi and straight away shifted her to the ICU. After 10 days of intensive treatment, Dr. Harsha's mother was saved.

Critical state to fine state

"Dr. Rajeshwari and her team of dedicated doctors filled me with hopes and were able to save my mother and brought her back from a critical state to a fine state," Dr. Harsha told *Star of Mysore.* He did not leave his mother alone in the bed. Instead, he wore a PPE kit and was himself monitoring the mother's condition. Initially Rajalakshmi was battling for life and her condition slowly improved.

Day by day, her oxygen levels improved and her condition stabilised. After 10 days in the ICU, Dr. Harsha's mother was shifted to post-ICU ward where she is recovering well. Inspired by the service at the hospital and the efforts of the staff in saving his mother, Dr. Harsha began his free service to other patients, as returning favour.

Plea in SC seeks cancellation of CBSE, ICSE class 12 exams

New Delhi, May 15 (UNI)- A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to cancel the CBSE and ICSE board examinations of Class 12 amid the raging second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the plea, petitioner advocate Mamta Sharma said, "step-motherly arbitrary, inhuman directions" have been issued to the innocent students to postpone the final examination for an unspecified duration instead of following the directions propounded and accepted by them last year.

The plea prayed to devise an objective methodology to declare the class 12 results within a specific time frame, saying even online or offline examinations not feasible in the current situation.

It also sought to set aside the earlier notifications issued by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE).

The plea further pointed out that delay in the declaration of Class 12 results will hamper students taking admission in foreign Universities.

Amid the ongoing pandemic, the CBSE exams for Class 12 which were slated to be held between May 4 and June 14 had been postponed. With Class 12 results being the basis for admission into higher education institutions, it had been decided to postpone the exams.

The CBSE informed that it will review the situation on June 1.

A notice of at least 15 days will be given before the start of the examinations, according to an official statement.

NEWS BRIEFS

Public auction postponed

The public auction of properties belonging to Government Employees Housing Co-operative Society, having office at Sahakara Bhavan on Chamaraja Double Road in the city, which was scheduled to take place on May 16, stands postponed due to COVID crisis. The next date of auction will be announced in the coming days.

CII sets up COVID Task Force

CII Mysuru has set up COVID Task Force to fight against COVID and to help the ailing virus patients. It has also initiated a series of funding and collecting donations through members to purchase Ambulance, Ventilators, Oxygen generating plants, Oxygen concentrators, Oxygen Cylinders, Beds and Cots and medicines.

Animal adoption

The following individuals and institutions have adopted the animals of Mysuru Zoo under 'Adoption of Animals' scheme by paying the Adoption Fee: D. Sumana, Mysuru - Zebra (Rs. 50,000); S. Dhananjaya (Siddeshwara Centerings), Mysuru - Great White Pelican (Rs. 15,000); Mohandas A Dixit, Bengaluru - Common Peafowl (Rs. 3,500) and M.K. Bhagya Lakshmi, Mysuru - Indian Cobra (Rs. 2,500).

Condolence

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Friday condoled the death of 'Padma Bhushan' Indu Jain, Chairperson of the Times Group who passed away on Thursday night. In a twitter message, he said, 'She will always be remembered for her compassion and philanthropic work. My condolences to her dear ones and to the Times Group family. Om Shanti.'

WATER LEVEL

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00	feet
Today	:	2258.25	feet
Inflow	:	218	cusecs
Outflow	:	725	cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00	feet
Today	:	2,820.48	feet
Inflow	:	224	cusecs
Outflow	:	80	cusecs

Chamarajanagar tragedy: Records tampered with, suspects HC Panel

Bengaluru, May 15 (BCT)- The three-member Committee of Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, appointed by the Karnataka High Court to probe the Chamarajanagar District Hospital tragedy, in its report submitted to the High Court has pointed out incidents of possible tampering with the records. A detailed probe alone can unearth the acts of omissions and commissions of the individuals for fixing the responsibility, the report said.

The Committee, headed by Justice A.N. Venugopala Gowda and Justice K.N. Keshavanarayana, retired Judges, and S.T. Ramesh, retired DGP&IGP pointed out manipulation by tampering of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) register maintained from Apr. 29, 2021 and two oxygen consumption registers maintained by the bio-medical engineer.

Following this serious observation, a Special Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Aravind Kumar has directed the State Chief Secretary to keep the records seized in his custody. The Bench has taken up a day-to-day hearing of the case and the Committee's findings.

Manipulation by tampering

One of the incidents of tampering was noticed by the Committee during the examination of the LMO register. "The examination of LMO register maintained from 29.4.2021 and two oxygen consumption registers maintained by the Bio-Medical Engineer, *prima facie* reveals that there has been manipulation by tampering of the registers. In the LMO register page No. 3 and 4 are missing," the report said.

The Committee report also observed discrepancies in the preparation of the case sheets of the deceased. "The entries in the case sheets, 28 made by one particular doctor and one case sheet by another doctor, appeared to have been made in one go," the report said.

Factual details column left blank

Some factual details were not entered in the case sheets with reference to even the time and date of death, while a number of printed forms were blank, without the particulars of the patient but contained only the signature of the Medical Officer, the report added.

The liquid oxygen tank with a capacity of 6 Kilo Litres was installed at the hospital premises some time ago but the first filling of LMO had taken place only on Apr. 29, 2021. On May 1, this LMO tank was filled for the second time after being commissioned on Apr. 29, but was exhausted in less than 30 hours. Though 40 jumbo cylinders were made available by District Hospital, Mysuru, the cylinders reached Chamarajanagar only at 6 am on May 3, the report observed.

The Committee has also recommended that the hard discs of CCTVs/DVR be retained in the safe custody of the State Chief Secretary. The Bench clarified that the One-Man Commission of inquiry headed by Retired Judge Justice B.A. Patil, constituted by the State Government, can get access to the documents.

Compensation to the families

The Special Bench sought a response from the State Government on paying compensation to the families of those who died in the tragedy. The Bench said the State Government was liable to compensate the families, and it has to answer two issues raised by the report.

First, how will the State Government compensate families that have lost their dear ones due to its failure and second aspect of the report is on the Government taking a decision on fixing responsibility on individual officers for their lapses, the Court asked Advocate-General Prabhuling K. Navadagi and Additional Advocate General Subramanya.

Amicus curiae Vikram Huilgol drew the attention of the Court to Supreme Court judgments on payment of compensation in such cases. The Bench noted that the Apex Court has held that the writ court can grant prayer for compensation under Article 226 of the Constitution.

The Court also said that the first priority is to pay at least ad hoc compensation to the families of victims. The Bench said it will consider issuing direction on payment of compensation if the Government is unable take a stand on paying compensation as the Committee has clearly pointed out that patients had died due to lack of supply of oxygen besides elaborating on the causes for lack of oxygen supply.

No comments, says Chamarajanagar DC

Dr. M.R. Ravi

Chamarajanagar, May 15 (SS&BCT)- Deputy Commissioner of Chamarajanagar District Dr. M.R. Ravi has refused to react to the observations made by the High Court-constituted three-member Committee to probe into the deaths of 24 persons due to oxygen shortage at Chamarajanagar District Hospital where lapses, discrepancies and mismanagement have been brought to fore.

When reporters wanted his reaction yesterday, the DC said that he would not react. "I will not comment on the report submitted by the Committee and as the case is still in the investigation stage, I will not air my views on the incident," he said.

When the reporters persisted, Dr. Ravi said, "From Pourakarmikas to the DC, everyone in Chamarajanagar is risking lives to save people from the pandemic. We are working as per our conscience. I will not react to the statements made by Mysuru DC Rohini Sindhuri and I will not react to any statements."

Minister hints at extension of COVID lockdown beyond May 24

R. Ashok

Bengaluru, May 15 (KMS &DM)- As the second wave of the deadly COVID -19 pandemic continues to rage across the State, the Karnataka Government is said to be mulling on extending the COVID lockdown beyond May 24.

Giving a hint in this regard, Revenue Minister R. Ashok who spoke to presspersons after attending a programme in the State capital on Friday, said that the COVID lockdown, which commenced from May 10 is in force till May 24. Highlighting the need for extending the lockdown by at least one more week till May 31 in order to check the spread of the deadly virus, Ashok said that he is seeking extension of the lockdown as an ordinary citizen, taking into account the health, safety and well-being of the State's population.

Reiterating that the extension of the lockdown is necessary in order to stem the rising COVID cases, Ashok said that the Chief Minister will take a decision on extension of the lockdown after holding a meeting with his Cabinet colleagues three days before the current lockdown ends on May 24.

Mysurean heads IISc's Oxygen Concentrator team

Low-cost, yet technologically superior machine better than Chinese concentrators

Mysuru, May 15 (BCT)- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bengaluru, a premier Science Institute of India, is supporting the nation in its battle against COVID-19 by developing an Oxygen Concentrator of 10 litres per minute (LPM) capacity which is being tested for its clinical validation at Bangalore Medical College.

The results of the tests have been promising and the oxygen output is about 90 percent and hence more efficient compared to the Chinese concentrators whose output is about 40 to 50 percent.

Prof. Praveen C. Ramamurthy

Behind the Institute's low-cost yet technologically superior Oxygen Concentrator is a dedicated team headed by Mysurean, Prof. Praveen C. Ramamurthy from Department of Materials Engineering. He is a resident of Ramakrishnanagar and presently stays inside the IISc. campus.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Prof. Praveen said that the Oxygen Concentrator is highly efficient and 95 percent oxygen concentration at 1 LPM is available within 3 minutes of the start of operation and more importantly, 90 percent oxygen is available at 5 LPM. "Doctors and hospitals have reviewed its performance and found it equivalent or better than imported units — units that are in short supply anyway in these trying times," he said.

Advanced prototypes were developed under the 'TATPAR' scheme of the Society for Innovation and Development (SID) at IISc. SID can now produce Oxygen Concentrators with emergency use authorisation from the Government.

Used indigenous components

"We have developed the system which was designed and fabricated using indigenous components. Generation and availability of oxygen source at point-of-care, where cylinders and other centrally distributed systems are unavailable is crucial at pandemic times. Even if oxygen supplies are available at hospitals, because of overcrowding will create stress on the system. Also, not all patients require ventilator systems and many require just health vital monitoring and supply of oxygen at various concentrations," Prof. Praveen explained.

Having a reliable oxygen supply is necessary for the care of these patients to improve the probability of survival during such a pandemic outbreak.

"Clinical validation of the Oxygen Concentrator is underway. More than 50 companies from all over India are in the process of technology transfer for mass manufacturing," he added.

Prof. Praveen finished his education in Sarada Vilas Educational Institutions and received M.Sc. in Polymer Science from the University of Mysore and Ph.D. degree from Clemson University, USA in 2004. He was working in USA in industries before joining the Indian Institute of Science in 2007.

His current research focuses on organic electronics and sensors. He has over 220 peer-reviewed papers published and 19 patents to his credit and graduated 15 Ph.D. students.

Govt. evinces keen interest in Institute's oxygen product

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Government has evinced keen interest in the Indian Institute of Science's Oxygen Concentrator and Health and Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar has interacted with Prof. Govindan Rangarajan, the Director of IISc., last Thursday to seek Institute's support in combating the contagion. Prof. Rangarajan briefed the Minister about research activities around COVID-19 and said that apart from the Oxygen Concentrator, the Institute was working on a COVID vaccine which can be stored at a room temperature upto 30 degrees.

IISc. vaccine

Prof. Rangarajan said that the vaccine is promising as the results show a better neutralising effect than the existing vaccines. The vaccine which is yet to go into the human trial process could be a big breakthrough in India's battle against pandemic.

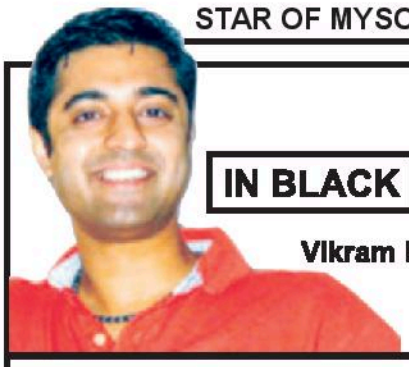
***IISc. Director Prof. Govindan Rangarajan** (left) interacted with Health and Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar on May 13.*

Raghavan Varadarajan, Professor of Molecular Biophysics Unit of the Institute, said the vaccine is made of a protein subunit, which refers to a part of the surface protein of the Coronavirus and no other components."We still have to do the process development, safety and toxicity studies. The trials will begin after six to eight months," he said.

Prof. Rangarajan sought the support of the Government to speed up the process of clinical validation and also help in obtaining regulatory approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for its emergency use. Dr. Sudhakar assured support from the Government and said he will take up the matter immediately with the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences Vice-Chancellor and with the Union Government.

From a public health point of view, this is a huge advantage as it enables the Government to scale up distribution of vaccines in a much faster and easier way, Prof. Rangarajan said.

Dr. Sudhakar sought the Institute's help in developing an audit mechanism and finding ways for optimal utilisation of oxygen and minimise wastage at both refilling/bottling units and at hospitals. Prof. Rangarajan said that they would extend all technical and engineering support to address the issue.



IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Pandemic POLITICS

Rohini Sindhuri

C. Shikha

V. Rashmi

Yesterday, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri, for the first time reacted to the clean chit given to her by the three-member probe Committee of the Karnataka High Court regarding Chamarajanagar tragedy.

She said, *"The Committee has cleared the name of Mysuru District Administration and several baseless and motivated statements had put a black mark on Mysuru. Unfortunately, while targeting me, they have brought a bad name to Mysuru. Those people who had made such allegations must apologise to Mysureans."* Probably what the DC really meant to say was, "They must apologise to me." And rightfully so.

As she herself put it, *"They have been targeting me from the day I assumed charge as Mysuru DC and sadly I am being personally targeted in many ways."* She was referring to two specific statements made recently.

First was from an MLA who said, *"We need role model officers, like previous DCs Abhiram G. Shankar and C. Shikha and not a 'model'."* It was a very personal attack and a sexist remark against a senior lady officer.

The other came from a local Corporator who called a press conference to point out that the DC had built a gym in her bungalow premises which had ruined the heritage value of the bungalow. We media people thought he had called the press conference to talk about COVID preparedness of his Ward. But alas.

In recent times many women Officers in Mysuru have had it tough as no one stands up for them. While the MLA said former Mysuru DC Shikha was a Role Model Officer why didn't anybody speak up for this "Role model Officer" when ex-ZP President K. Marigowda and his gang gheraoed her car in front of the Government Guest House, violently tugged at her car door and showered her with the most foul of abuses while intimidating her with dire consequences?

Worse, even after six days into Shikha filing a complaint, the Police were unable to arrest even one of the four named by the DC! Back then no one spoke up in support of this "Role Model Officer."

Then, many may recall ATI Director-General V. Rashmi. She unearthed a scam worth crores in the Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Mysuru and she was attacked for it — a cafeteria employee threw slipper at her while another beat her over her head — no one stood up for this "Role Model Officer."

Rashmi in her 23 years of service has been transferred 25 times! She has never been allowed to complete even one year in one Department. Is this how we treat a good officer, a widow with a young daughter?

Where was the Women's Commission when Rashmi was threatened and beaten on live TV? Where is the IAS Officers Association when their own are getting abused? One wonders, has the IAS Officers Association become like some Trade Union leaders, who secretly side with the management?

We don't like good officers, more so if they happen to be women who stand up for themselves. Why else would the IAS Association not say a word in support of Mysuru DC while last year it rushed to the defence of Mysuru ZP CEO P.K. Mishra who was named in the suicide of Taluk Health Officer?

Back then the IAS Association wrote to the CM saying that the FIR against P.K Mishra, *"Has brought down the morale of field officers and such acts will deteriorate the administrative efficiency and effectiveness."* The Association then asked the Government to have a pragmatic and sensitive approach, and requested the Government and others to stand by its officers.

While indeed some officers are hard-working, there is another issue that is creating friction between civil servants and politicians — political ambition.

Some officers are closer to certain politicians and political parties and hence their work is seen with suspicion by Opposition party politicians. And it is no secret that Sindhuri is seen favourably by the State Government and so she may be bearing the brunt of the Opposition party politicians.

Over the years the list of bureaucrats becoming politicians has been growing, starting with leaders like Yashwant Sinha, Natwar Singh, Mani Shankar Aiyar, former LS Speaker Meira Kumar (she was an IFS Officer), Arvind Kejriwal (former IRS Officer), etc. Shockingly even former RAW Chief Sanjeev Tripathi joined BJP ! This is happening even at the State-level.

In Karnataka, Officers who entered politics include former DGP Shankar Bidari, former Bangalore Police Commissioner H.T. Sangliana, former DGP L. Revannasiddaiah, former DGP K.C. Ramamurthy, former ACP Abdul Azeem... the list goes on.

Then there was former Chief Secretary B.S. Patil who stood for elections and in 2014 former Justice C. Chandrashekaraiah stood for MP elections from Mysuru-Kodagu. More recently former Chief Secretary of Karnataka, Ratna Prabha joined the BJP and stood in Tirupathi.

So may be after Rohini Sindhuri's success in completing the Rs. 200 crore accommodation project in Tirupathi funded by Karnataka when she was the Religious and Endowment Commissioner has led to some politicians to believe she is headed for politics and so are already on the attack.

But for now, she is still an IAS Officer and handling a pandemic. Lives have been lost and livelihoods destroyed. In these distressing times the only ones holding our system together are Government personnel led by IAS Officers. So let us be more supportive rather than critical.

Indeed, the illustrious lawyer, Nani Palkhivala once said *"Today Indian bureaucracy has more information than knowledge, more knowledge than wisdom and more intelligence than imagination."* This may be true, considering how they are tested and selected, but in these COVID times his words will be tested and some are proving him wrong like Dr. Rajendra Bharud, District Collector of Nandurbar in Maharashtra and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal. Closer home we have Officers such as Avinash Menon and V.D. Nishchith, Nodal Officer and Assistant Nodal Officer respectively, who quickly got an online dashboard designed and deployed to resolve Remdesivir distribution problems in the State.

Our DC may not have that "pleasant tactfulness" that most people prefer but the way the DC is being targeted is unfair and ill-timed. Critiquing and constructive feedback is of course needed and the DC has to be open to it, but personal attacks are not only demoralising but demeaning. It is detrimental to the fight against COVID. Is the DC to fight COVID or invest her time fighting off personal attacks? Which means, she has less time to fight COVID and keep Mysuru safe.

As the Mysuru DC noted, *"During a crisis time, people, bureaucrats and politicians must join hands to fight the contagion."* But she ended it with a little sting in the tail as she said, *"Let Basavanna's preachings guide them and may Goddess Chamundeshwari give wisdom to them."*

Some may ask, "Did she really have to say that?" Ah! may be therein lies politicians' problem with DC Sindhuri ... a woman giving it as good as she gets. Most men don't like it. But we doubt she cares. Good. Now let's get back to saving Mysuru.

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Rainy days ahead as Cyclone Tauktae intensifies

(Continued from page 1)

This morning, Mysureans woke up to chilly weather due to rains that began late last night. Thought the rain gave a respite from sweltering heat, they had to remain indoors. Already people are spending a life of recluse due to COVID lockdown by staying indoors all the time.

Today, except for essential purchases, people preferred to stay indoors and roads remained empty. Even those who ventured out to buy essentials from 6 am to 10 am were caught in the rain and office-goers of crucial sectors including media had a tough time in reaching their offices.

Mysuru rain forecast

The Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority and Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre have issued alerts. The forecast for Mysuru is that it will receive 35 mm rainfall on May 15 (today), 31 mm on May 16, 30 mm on May 17 and 33 mm on May 18. Maximum temperature will be between 31 and 33 degrees Celsius while minimum temperature will be between 20 and 21 degrees Celsius.

Red alert in Kodagu

The IMD has issued red alert in Kodagu with a forecast of heavy rain on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. While May 15 will be an orange alert, May 16 will be a red alert day. Accordingly, the Kodagu District Administration has cautioned the public and urged them to remain in safer places in view of the forecast.

Kodagu was battered by rain, floods and landslip since 2018 resulting in loss of lives and damage to properties. This is the fourth consecutive year that the district will be receiving very heavy rainfall. The 25-member National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team from 10th Battalion Guntur in Andhra Pradesh has arrived in Kodagu and have been housed at 'Maithri,' the Kodagu District Police Bhavan at Madikeri. It is the same team that is carrying out relief and rescue operations since the last three years.

The team will be positioned at vulnerable places for tackling rain-related emergencies. The NDRF team will function in tandem with the Revenue Department, Police, State Disaster Response Force and also the Forest Department.

People warned about danger

The District Administration has also asked people to move away from hilly areas and stay in safer places. Areas where landslides have occurred in the last three years must be avoided. People on both banks of River Cauvery and Lakshmanatheertha and on the low lying areas of rivers have been directed to move to safer places and take all precautionary measures for safety and security of their lives and properties.

The District Disaster Management Authority has been activated and instructions have been passed by Deputy Commissioner Charulata Somal to all Tahsildars to communicate any eventuality to the District Headquarters so that relief can be rushed.

Since last night, it has been pouring in Madikeri, Kaththalekaadu, Siddapura, Kushalnagar, Bethri, Karadigodu, Napoklu, Kakkabbe, Madapura, Garwale, Somwarpet, Bhagamandala, Talacauvery, Perumbadi, Thithimathi, Kunda, Ponnampet, Haisudlur, Shettigeri and Kutta. The IMD has predicted 50 mm rainfall in Kodagu on May 15 (today), 111 mm on May 16 and 42 mm on May 17. Temperatures will be between 20 and 31 degrees Celsius.

A huge branch of a tree located at Curzon Park near Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple at the North Gate of Mysore Palace snapped and fell following rain this morning. Luckily, no one was injured in the incident.

Be prepared to increase oxygenated beds, ICUs and ventilators: District Minister

Mysuru, May 15 (SSV)- Co-operation and District Incharge Minister S.T. Somashekar has asked officers to make preparations to increase the number of oxygenated beds, ventilators and ICUs in the district.

Presiding over COVID-19 District Task Force Committee meeting at Zilla Panchayat auditorium here yesterday, he said plenty of general beds are available but there was lot of demand for oxygenated beds, ventilators and ICUs. Steps need to be taken up in this regard.

The exact demand for oxygen in Government Hospitals and Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST) Registered Hospitals was available. But the non-SAST registered Hospitals which were also into treatment of COVID patients, were not giving details on oxygen utilisation, he said and asked the Officers to insist on those Hospitals to share information.

"It is the responsibility of every one of us to prevent deaths due to shortage of oxygen. Officers must give exact requirement of oxygen so that the exact quantity of the same could be procured. If officers failed to furnish exact information with documents it will be very difficult to seek additional quota for oxygen at the Government level," the Minister said. Somashekar said there was scope to increase the number of ICUs at the Super Speciality Hospital and constituted a committee headed by MLA S.A. Ramdas, who is also the Advisor of the Task Force, consisting of doctors and four officers, to give a detailed report in next two days, about the requirement of doctors, medical staff and equipment.

He said pressure on oxygenated and ICU beds has increased as patients who don't require both, were getting admitted to Hospitals. This can be solved if patients were medically examined at the COVID Mitra Centres and then allot them bed according to their health condition.

Claiming that tender process will delay in the procurement of medicines, Ramdas suggested to give powers to the Deputy Commissioner to buy the medicine without following the usual procedure.

MLA Tanveer Sait, MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev, Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri, ZP CEO A.M. Yogesh, Zoo Authority of Karnataka Chairman L.R. Mahadevaswamy, Jungle Lodges and Resorts Chairman M. Appanna, D. Devaraja Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation Chairman R. Raghu Kautilya, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. B.S. Manjunathaswamy, DHO Dr. T. Amarnath and others were present.

Surging toll forces MCC to scramble for firewood

Corporation officials appeal to donors, voluntary organisations to donate firewood

Mysuru, May 15 (MTY&BCT)- Grim prospects of a rise in the number of COVID deaths in Mysuru has sent civic authorities scrambling for resources for conducting funerals in a dignified manner and also minimising inconvenience to the families. On an average, 10 persons are losing their battle with the killer virus daily and the daunting task is to make firewood readily available for cremations.

In city, nine places have been earmarked to cremate the dead bodies as per traditions and wishes of the family members. Cremations are also held in village limits when the family members demand that they will take the body to their home towns. Here too, strict protocol is followed.

Earlier, the Mukthidhama — electric crematorium — at Vijayanagar Fourth Stage was reserved to cremate the dead and now as the death graph is showing an upward trend, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) and the District Administration are compelled to hunt for more crematoriums and also firewood.

Now, COVID cremations are being held at Jayanagar electric crematorium, Harishchandra Ghat at the foot of Chamundi Hill and at the burial ground at Jodi Thenginamara Road, Bannimantap. While there is a provision of cremating eight bodies in one go at Jodi Thenginamara Road burial ground, two more structures that can burn four bodies have been constructed.

Though the civic body has adequate arrangements for firewood, there is a possibility of a shortage. "As the COVID death count has increased significantly in the last three weeks, the firewood requirement has also gone up exponentially. So, we are appealing to donors to ensure a steady supply of firewood. We don't want last-minute hassles. Crematoriums should not stop because of faults. This is to minimise sufferings of the bereaved families," said MCC officials.

Over 400 kg of wood is required to cremate a body and at present, there are 10 truckloads of firewood. "The fatality situation is turning from bad to worse. There have been instances when relatives have refused to touch the body of COVID victims and we have to make all arrangements. We are appealing to donors to donate firewood and also voluntary organisations can pool in money to purchase firewood from suppliers," an officer said.

Mass cremations: A first in Mysuru

Heart-breaking scenes at Jodi Thenginamara Road cremation site

Mysuru, May 15 (MTY&BCT)- While people losing loved ones to COVID-19 turning to makeshift facilities that are undertaking mass burials and cremations as crematoriums come under pressure is a common scene in cities like Bengaluru and Delhi, Mysuru witnessed its first mass cremation yesterday at the burial ground at Jodi Thenginamara Road, Bannimantap.

Since Thursday, many crematoriums were full with burning schedules and as such, not to worsen the situation, seven bodies were cremated at Jodi Thenginamara Road cremation site. Before the cremation, family members were informed about the situation and they were asked to come to the venue. Last rites were performed with the consent of the family members and as per the traditions.

Relatives were asked to see the dead bodies wrapped in body bags where only a small window to see the victim's face was made. After the ritual they were asked to place flowers on their loved ones. It was a heart-breaking scene as the relatives hugged each other and clutched their hands with tears rolling down their eyes as they said final goodbye to the loved ones.

Later, bodies were carried one-by-one to the burning location where the firewood was already readied and were placed on the pyre. Pujas were performed and the family members stood solemnly at a distance of 500 metres. The pyres were set on fire while the family members watched silently.

It took over three hours for all the seven bodies to be reduced to ashes and the body-burning staff waited patiently for the process to complete and showed commitment to their profession. Relatives were asked to come later to collect the ashes for them to follow rituals as per Hindu tradition.

Preparations before death

Usually in Hindu tradition, a bamboo bier (called chatta in Kannada) is made only after a person dies and it is not made before death. Following increased death rate, the MCC had asked Guruprasad, a resident of Medarakeri near Nanjumalige to make bamboo biers in advance. And he had prepared several biers to carry the bodies to crematoriums.

At that time deaths in Mysuru were handful and the MCC was criticised for preparing bamboo biers in advance and the MCC is going against the traditions. Now since the death rate has increased and every day on an average, 10 people are dying and this has forced the MCC to stock-up firewood before any death occurs. So, the traditions have to be given a go-by in critical times.

TVS Company Trust donates 135 Oxygen Concentrators

Mysuru, May 15 (RKB&DM)- Coming to the help of the district administration during COVID crisis, Srinivasan Services Trust of well-known auto manufacturer TVS Motor Company, which has a manufacturing facility near Kadakola in the district, has donated 135 Oxygen Concentrators to the district administration.

The machines were handed over to District Minister S.T. Somashekar and Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri in front of the ZP Office here yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, Trust's Field Director Puttamadaiah said that the Trust has donated the Oxygen Concentrators under CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiative. Pointing out that the total cost of 135 Oxygen Concentrators is about Rs. 95 lakh, with each of them costing Rs. 70,000, he said that every Concentrator is of 5 litre capacity.

Continuing, he said that the Trust will also donate 50 Concentrators to Chamarajanagar in a couple of days. Besides, the Trust has donated a good number of face masks, PPE Kits, Sanitisers, Rubber hand gloves, Face shields, Oximeters, Paracetamol tablets, Thermometers and other safety wears to many Government and Primary Health Centres in Mysuru district, he added.

MLAs S.A. Ramdas and Tanveer Sait, MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev, JLR Chairman M. Appanna, ZAK Chairman L.R. Mahadevaswamy, D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation Chairman Raghu Kautilya, TVS Company Production Head M.K. Shaji, Finance Head Kashi Sudhakar, Human Resource Head K. Vijaykumar, Srinivasan Services Trust senior Director Panduranga Nayak and others were present.

Two arrested for sale of Remdesivir injections in black market

Mysuru, May 15 (KS)- The City Crime Branch (CCB) Police on May 12 have arrest two persons for selling Remdesivir injections in black market and have seized two injection vials from them.

The arrested are 24-year-old David Enosh of Mysuru and 22-year-old Ajay of Agasanahundi Colony in H.D. Kote taluk. Both are working as staff nurses at a private hospital in Mysuru. During interrogation the accused are said to have told that Police that they had brought Remdesivir injection vials given by the hospital to administer it to patients and were trying to sell it for higher price. A case has been registered at V.V. Puram Police Station.

DCPs Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda (Law and Order) and M.S. Geetha Prasanna (Crime and Traffic) and CCB ACP C.K. Ashwathnarayan guided CCB Inspector R. Jagadish and staff in the operation.

Obituary

Puttaswamy

Mysuru, May 15 - Puttaswamy (58), an employee of the Horticulture Department and a resident of Janata Nagar, passed away yesterday in city.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Jayanagar Burial Grounds this morning.

K.S. Chandrashekar

K.S. Chandrashekar (84), retired Marketing and Public Relations Officer at Ideal Jawa, Mysuru, passed away yesterday in Bengaluru.

He leaves behind son Dr. Shishir Chandrashekar, daughter Urmila Chandrashekar and a host of relatives and friends.

Chandrashekar had involved himself in various social work activities and was a member of Rotary and Mysore Race Club. He was staying at his son's residence. Last rites were performed in Bengaluru.

Suvarnamma

Suvarnamma (71), wife of late C.K. Nagaraj and a resident of Murbandh, N. Begur in H.D. Kote taluk, passed away yesterday morning at a private hospital city, following brief illness.

She leaves behind daughter Lakshmi Natraj, wife of M.N. Natraj, State Director of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, sons Kiran Kumar and Balakrishna and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Murbandh yesterday evening.

C. K. Nagaraj: C. K. Nagaraj (78), husband of late Suvarnamma, passed away this morning at a private hospital in city.

Last rites will be performed at Murbandh today evening.

G. Shridhar

G. Shridhar (50), son of late L. Gopalakrishna Shetty, Proprietor of Shri Sharada Cycle Mart at D. Banumaiah Square, passed away on May 13 in city. He leaves behind his wife, one son and a host of relatives and friends. Cremation was held at Jayanagar Crematorium on the same day.

R. Ramu

R. Ramu (59), a resident of Ligambudhi Palya, passed away on Thursday night in city following brief illness.

He leaves behind his wife Sunitha, daughters Roopa, Rani and Rashmi, sons Shashikumar and Kiran Kumar and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at his native place on Friday.

Venkatasubbaiah

Venkatasubbaiah (73), former cricketer, Umpire and a former employee of Ideal Jawa, passed away on May 12 in Bengaluru.

A long time resident of Mysuru, he was staying at his son's residence in Bengaluru and leaves behind one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed on May 13 in Bengaluru.

Hazrath Alhaj Abrar Khan

Hazrath Alhaj Abrar Khan (83), a resident of Kamalpur in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh, passed away on May 13 in Kanpur, following brief illness.

He leaves behind one daughter, three sons including Sufi Hazrath Moulana Mohammed Anwar Ahmed Nizami, Chief patron of Darul Uloom Azeezia Arabic College at Mamballi and Azeezia Educational Trust, Kalyangiri, Mysuru and a host of relatives and friends. Namaz-e-Janaza and burial took place on May 14 at Sunni Muslim Burial Grounds at Kamalpur.

Senior journalist Mahadeva Prakash passes away

Bengaluru, May 15- Senior Journalist and former Media Advisor to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, **Mahadeva Prakash** (65), passed away at a private hospital here on Friday following brief illness. He is survived by wife and a daughter.

Mahadeva Prakash started his journalism career with the now defunct 'Lokavani' newspaper that was run by former Chief Minister Late Veerendra Patil in the 1970's, at an young age.

He later started multiple publications himself and was currently the editor of monthly magazine 'Ee Bhanuvara'.

He had earlier served as editor of 'Kannada Nudi' magazine of Kannada Sahitya Parishat. He was appointed as Media Advisor to CM B.S. Yediyurappa in 2019, but he quit in Nov. 2020.

Mahadeva Prakash was known to be an authority on the political history of the State, an expert in electoral analysis and Psephology. His column 'Horalu Nota' in a Kannada daily, earned him repute. A good orator, he became a television personality on politics in recent years.

D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Commission Chairman Raghu Kautilya has condoled the death of Mahadeva Prakash. In his condolence message, Raghu said that Prakash's political analysis was excellent and recalled the senior journalist's service when he was the media advisor to the Chief Minister.

Corona patient dies: Relatives assault docs

Mysuru, May 15 (YDS&SSV)- Doctors and a Security Guard of Emergency Ward in K.R. Hospital were allegedly assaulted by a group of people following death of a COVID patient on Thursday.

A 55-year-old person was admitted to the Hospital for Corona treatment on Wednesday, but he died on Thursday evening. The family members and relatives of the deceased, upon hearing the news, assaulted the doctors.

The Security Guard and an ambulance driver, who went to the rescue of doctors, were also manhandled by the mob.

Talking about the incident, Dr. Abhishek, President, Resident Doctors Association, Mysuru, said the condition of patient was critical when he was brought to the Hospital.

Though his relatives were informed about the non-availability of bed or ventilator, still they insisted on his admission. "He was under triage since Wednesday, but succumbed to the virus on Thursday. When informed, the mob assaulted the doctors. The Security Guard and the ambulance driver were also assaulted," he said.

"We are also staying away from families and working 24 hours serving patients. Death occurs beyond our control. Assaulting us will make us lose our confidence," he added.

On receipt of information, ACP M.N. Shashidhar visited the Hospital and collected info about the incident and promised to take action against the accused.

WORD OF THE DAY

Importunate

Pronunciation: im-POR-chuh-nut.
Meaning: Troublesomely urgent : overly persistent in request or demand; troublesome.
Origin: Importunate has been part of the English language since the 16th century, and the synonymous importune arrived even earlier, in the 15th century. The seemingly superfluous inclusion of the suffix -ate in importunate is a bit mysterious; one theory is that English speakers modeled the adjective after words like obstinate. Importune and importunate come from Latin importunus. The prefix im- means "not," and importunus can be contrasted with Latin opportunus, which shares its meaning with and is the ancestor of our opportune, meaning "suitable or timely." The connection is obscure now, but opportunus itself harks back to the Latin phrase ob portum, meaning "[coming] to harbor." Importune, and later importunate, once meant "inopportune, untimely," but that sense is now obsolete.
Example: "It seems apt that in the play's first scene, set at 6 a.m. in Lagos, Nigeria, an importunate young customer asks the barber he's so rudely awakened to give him an 'aerodynamic' cut." — Ben Brantley, The New York Times

THE ODD WORD

Ichnography

Art of drawing ground plans; a ground plan.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen

Meaning: The phrase if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen means—if an activity is too difficult or the pressure of a situation is too great for someone to handle, then perhaps it would be best to stop doing it and/or leave.
Origin: It's believed that Harry S. Truman is the one who coined the phrase. He used this expression as early 1942. In a newspaper from that year called The Soda Springs Sun, he was quoted as saying: "Favorite rejoinder of Senator Harry S. Truman, when a member of his war contracts investigating committee objects to his strenuous pace: 'If you don't like the heat, get out of the kitchen." One can't seem to find the phrase in any newspapers from before the above mentioned time. So it looks like the expression was indeed coined in that year, making it 77 years old.

QUOTE BOX

If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress. **—Barack Obama**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

TUITION

Answer : Woman's intuition.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

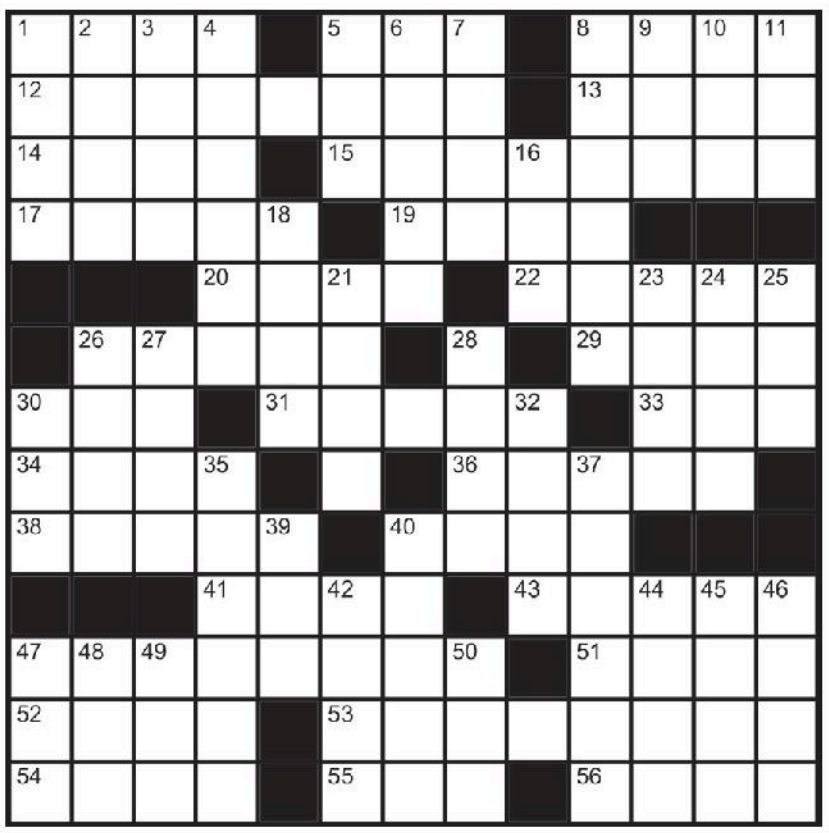
1 _ __ __ person : all of us can say this ? (1,2,1)
5 Place
8 Ex-India all-rounder __ Ali
12 Quality of a knight
13 Portrait painter Sir Peter
14 Architect Saarinen
15 Skullcap
17 European ducks of a kind?
19 Emerge indistinctly
20 Consumes
22 Mountain range
26 Barrier
29 Eye part
30 Ireland's ___ Lingus
31 Abomination
33 Vane directions ?
34 Wise person
36 Civil War writer of Uncle Tom's Cabin, fame?
38 Agency of substitute or deputy - as in "voted by ___?"
40 Curve
41 Land of the llama
43 Drug used to treat Parkinson's disease (1-4)
47 Visualize
51 Oil country
52 Poker holding
53 Lazy woman
54 Concerning, in legal terms - "rein" anagram? (2,2)
55 For each
56 Bond of servitude

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

A	R	T	S	■	O	D	A	S	■	S	I	B
L	O	O	T	■	F	E	T	A	■	P	R	Y
E	M	M	A	■	F	O	R	M	U	L	A	E
G	A	B	R	I	E	L	■	S	S	E	■	■
■	■	■	T	A	R	■	H	O	B	N	O	B
R	E	A	L	M	■	S	E	N	■	D	R	Y
A	A	R	E	■	P	U	P	■	L	I	A	R
F	C	S	■	P	O	M	■	L	A	D	L	E
T	H	O	R	A	X	■	A	E	S	■	■	■
■	■	N	E	T	■	E	L	E	A	N	O	R
A	P	I	A	R	I	S	T	■	G	O	N	E
B	U	S	■	O	C	T	O	■	N	E	U	T
E	N	T	■	L	Y	E	S	■	E	S	S	E

DOWN

1 Frozen treats
2 A coughing sound usually made to attract attention?
3 Bog or marshy area
4 Professed
5 Wield
6 Russian mountains
7 Novice
8 Past pupils
9 Ten decibels ?
10 Class or kind
11 Change the colour of
16 Extinct NZ bird
18 Kind of pudding
21 Spreads out for drying
23 Sketched
24 One in Oldenburg
25 U-turn from NNW
26 Listen to
27 Therefore
28 English river
30 Deadly snake
32 Tel ser. provider in New Delhi and Mumbai
35 Come to an end
37 Peculiarity
39 An affirmative reply
40 Brass wind instrument
42 A coarse file
44 Famous cookie
45 Large public garden in a town or a city
46 Name of a girl or old-time queen of England
47 Prefix for "dermis" or "center"
48 Girl's name - "Ann" changed?
49 Comedian ___ Das
50 Aural appendage



SUDOKO

						5	2	3
	9							
1			2	5				
	2	3			7		4	
5		7				3		2
	4		5			8	9	
				9	6			8
							3	
4	1	6						

Answer to previous puzzle

1	6	5	8	4	2	3	9	7
7	9	3	1	6	5	8	2	4
2	4	8	3	9	7	1	6	5
6	2	1	7	8	3	4	5	9
5	8	4	2	1	9	6	7	3
9	3	7	6	5	4	2	1	8
8	7	2	5	3	6	9	4	1
3	5	9	4	2	1	7	8	6
4	1	6	9	7	8	5	3	2

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

NFQ DREQ W HNVGB EQPWLWRSH NFQ

DREQ W UD TRSMWSTQG NFUN DUS SQMQE

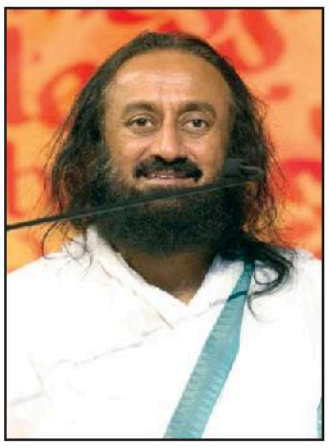
ZREHFWIIQG USBNFWSL KVN FWDHQPO.

TODAY'S CLUE: L EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: One doesn't discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time.

POSITIVITY UNLIMITED

'This is the time to express our gratitude to society and serve others'



Sri Ravi Shankar

On the 2nd day of the #PositivityUnlimited lecture series organised by COVID Response Team (CRT), Delhi, on May 12, Founder of Art of Living Sri Ravi Shankar Guruji spoke thus:

Our country is going through the biggest challenge of this century. Witnessing the loss of our near and dear ones, our minds can be affected.

Many of us have lost our friends and relatives. Anyone can be affected mentally. So what is that we can do? We have to do 4 things to overcome this:

1. Mental Strength: We have to be mentally strong, and this is also our responsibility now. We have to reignite our energies and stay courageous.

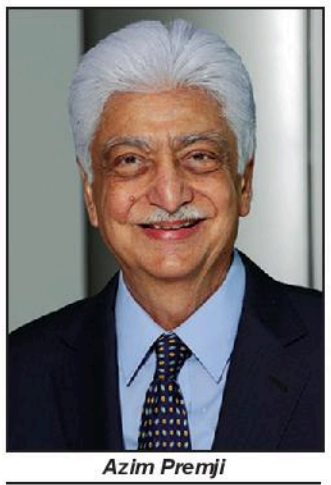
2. Remain Conscious: We should not be affected emotionally, and we must be conscious and aware of the things happening around. It also gives us the strength to serve others. This will enable us to follow the guidelines laid for the sake of the society. For this we have to meditate, recite a few mantras and have faith in God. Our ancestors have done this for ages. We have to follow it at this juncture when the entire humanity is being tested.

3. Serve Others: This is the time to serve others. We have read of people who continued to serve despite death in their own families. This is the time to express our gratitude to society.

4. Yoga & Ayurveda: Along with this we have to control the food we take. We also have to practice Yoga and opt for Ayurvedic remedies to stay fit.

We have to avoid negative news as much as possible and listen to more positive news and messages. Every person has to strive to keep himself/herself and his/her surroundings positive he concluded.

'Country must come together as one'



Azim Premji

Another lecture was by Chairman of Wipro Limited, Azim Premji, who had to say 3 things in this hour of crisis:

1. We have to act fast, and our actions should be based on science. We must confront this crisis truthfully. Science is the foundation on which we can find solutions.

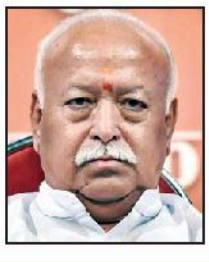
2. Country must come together as one. United we stand and divided we fall.

3. We have to be considerate to the plight of the downtrodden. The pandemic is also affecting the vulnerable. We need to restructure society so that the needs of the most vulnerable sections are taken care of.

I urge everyone to come together and do more for society in this hour of crisis.

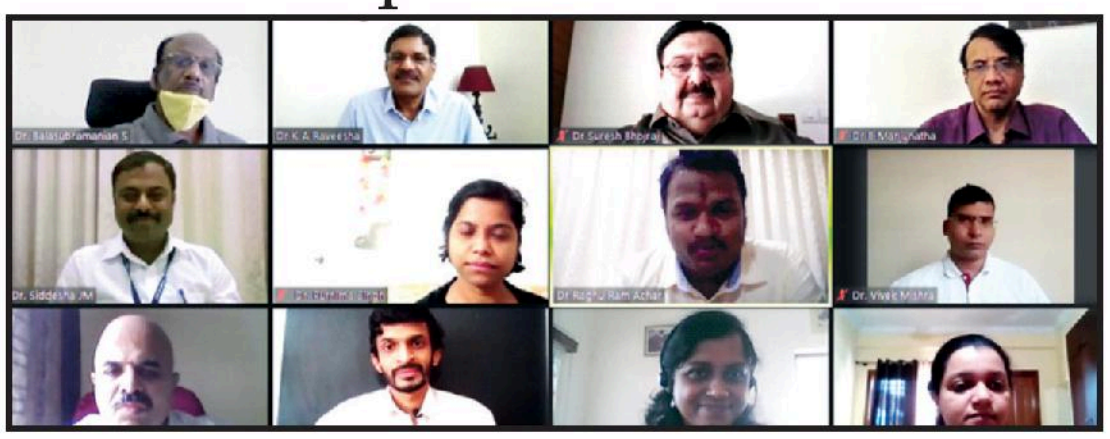
[Report: Prashanth Vaidyaraj]

NOTE: ***Today's talk by RSS Sarsanghchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat will be streamed through the digital media platforms*** *(facebook.com/VishwaSamvadKendraBharat and youtube.com/VishwaSamvadKendraBharat)* ***from 4.30 pm to 5 pm.***



JSS AHER hosts International Webinar

"The Career Catalyst: Plan, Prepare and Prosper in Life Sciences"



Mysuru, May 15- The two-day International Webinar entitled "The Career Catalyst: Plan, Prepare and Prosper in Life Sciences" organised by Division of Biochemistry, Faculty of Life Sciences (FLS), JSS AHER, Mysuru, was held on May 8 and 9.

The virtual event was inaugurated by Dr. B. Suresh, Pro-Chancellor, JSS AHER, alongside Dr. B. Manjunatha, Registrar, JSS AHER, Dr. S. Balasubramanian, Director (Research) and Dean-FLS, Dr. K.A. Raveesha, Professor & Head, FLS.

Dr. J.M. Siddesha, Dr. J.R. Kumar and Dr. Raghu Ram Achar, Assistant Professors of Biochemistry, were also present.

Dr. Balasubramanian, in his opening remarks, spoke about the genesis of the courses under FLS from 2011 and mentioned about the variety of courses offered to cater to the needs for successful employment in academia, industry, research and entrepreneurial setup.

Dr. Siddesha, Organising Secretary, explained about the need and essence of subjecting students to such webinars where they are exposed to opportunities and emphasised on the importance of Basic Sciences for the professional growth and development at the global level.

Dr. Manjunatha, in the inaugural address, spoke on the importance of resource persons of diversified fields.

Dr. Suresh reiterated that Life Sciences is anticipated as an important sector for next decade alongside Medical & Health Technology for its importance in wellbeing of the mankind.

He also spoke about Dr. Krishna Ella's illustrious career from being a graduate in Agricultural Sciences and later on heading towards excelling to enable India's first Indigenous COVID-19 vaccine COVAXIN from his company Bharat Biotech.

Giving excerpts of his discussions with people like Dr. Krishna Ella, Dr. Suresh mentioned that companies like Bharat Biotech possess immense requirement of Life Science graduates with essential skills to cater to the needs of present-day health sector. He wished the participants to use this platform as a catalyst to build their career in Life Sciences.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Raveesha emphasised on the expected outcomes of the event. The inaugural event was moderated by Dr. Raghu Ram Achar.

The webinar aimed to address the dilemma among Life Science students when they find themselves at crossroads in their career even upon successful completion of a course.

The webinar was empowered with a panel of 12 speakers (from India, Australia, Austria, United Kingdom and USA) working in different sectors; academia, industry, research and entrepreneurial setup. Day one comprised talks by Dr. Purnima Singh, Research Associate, University of Tennessee Health Science Centre, Memphis, TN, USA; Alex Thomas, Deputy Manager, Clinical R&D, Cipla Ltd., Mumbai, India; Vivek Mishra Director & CEO, FibrohealWoundcare Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru, India; Dr. Giridhar Shivalingaiah, Medical Devise Quality Specialist, Technical Research & Development, Sandoz GmbH, Novartis Pharma,Tirol, Austria; and Dr. Sunil Parthasarathy, Technical leadAlmac GroupBelfast, Northern Ireland, UK.

Resource persons for day 2 were as follows: Dr. Mridul Mandal, Sr. Scientist, Boston Analytical,Founder/CEO/Chief Strategist, Mandalogics, USA; Dr. Prakash S.T. Shanmugam, Senior Toxicologist, Global product safety & Toxicology, Avanos Medical Inc. USA; K.T. Kanya, Global Document Management Coordinator, Bioclinica, India; Sunethra Derebail, Lead Patent Attorney, S&H Partners, Bengaluru; Yashad Dongol, Research Scholar, University of Queensland, Australia; Bharath Bhat, Educator, Unacademy, India; and Harsha Ramakrishna, Associate ITS, Grain Milling, Novozymes South Asia Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru.

In the valedictory address, Dr. P.A. Kushalappa, Director-Academics, JSS AHER, explained about the wide courses being offered to cater the needs of the employers. Also suggesting that Life Sciences would take the way forward in providing wide scope employability as it is being observed during this pandemic either in the field of diagnosis, drug discovery or vaccination.

Dr. J.R. Kumar, Joint Organising Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks. Over 1,600 participants had registered for the event.

For the benefit of the larger audience who could not make it to the webinar, the video recording of the entire event can be accessed from JSS AHER YouTube Channel (www.shorturl.at/ICELZ ; www.shorturl.at/epP28), according to a release from Prof. K.A. Raveesha, Head, Faculty of Life Sciences, JSS AHER.

State to get two more Oxygen Express

Hubballi, May 15 (UNI)- Two more Oxygen Express trains carrying a total of another 240 Metric Tonnes of Medical Oxygen to Karnataka are on their way from Kalinganagar, Odisha and Tatanagar in Jharkhand and are expected to reach the Inland Container Depot at Whitefield near Bengaluru today, according to an official press release issued by the Headquarters of the South Western Railway (SWR), here yesterday.

It may be recalled that the first Oxygen Express from Tatanagar (Jamshedpur) had reached Whitefield on May 11 with a load of 120 Metric Tonnes of Medical Oxygen. Each trains are carrying 6 Cryogenic Containers containing 120 Metric Tonnes Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) amounting to a total of 240 Metric Tonnes of Medical Oxygen, the press release added.

People queue up for RT-PCR testing amid incessant rains in city

Tokens being issued at a COVID Testing Centre in city this morning. Picture right shows people waiting to undergo RT-PCR test near Dufferin Clock Tower.

Mysuru, May 15 (MTY&DM)- The incessant rains triggered by cyclone Tauktae that has been lashing the city since late last night has not dampened the eagerness of people to get themselves tested for the deadly COVID-19 virus as the contagion continues with its devastation, claiming the lives of many.

Fearing that developing common fever, cold, cough, throat pain, body pain etc., are mild symptoms of the deadly pandemic, which is causing great havoc across the country, people were seen rushing to RT-PCR testing centres — both Government and Private — in the city right from the morning. As a result, the RT-PCR and RAT testing centres were dotted with people standing in long queues holding umbrellas to protect themselves from the lashing rains.

Taking note of the consistent rise in the number of people rushing to the Testing Centres, the District Administration recently opened as many as 23 COVID Mitra centres including three big ones across the city and as well as at PHCs (Primary Health Centre) in Taluks, to treat people having mild or asymptomatic symptoms and thus reduce the burden on the Testing Centres.

Anyone developing mild symptoms such as fever, cough and cold, can walk in to the COVID Mitra centre located closer to his or her home, where doctors, after a medical examination will provide treatment based on Triage and prescribe medicines.

However, those with larger symptoms, are sent to the Red Zone, where they will undergo a RAT test and RT-PCR test if needed. If the results turned out to be positive, then the patients will be recommended for home quarantine or hospitalisation, depending upon the severity of the symptoms.

Number of COVID testing centres reduced

With the establishment of COVID Mitras, the District Administration has reduced the number of COVID testing centres (both RAT and RT-PCR), which was 33 earlier. Now the city has about 12 testing centres, including the ones at K.R. Hospital, Town Hall, Dufferin Clock Tower (Small Clock Tower), Trauma Centre and District Hospital on KRS road and J.P. Nagar PHC.

But due to the recent change in parameters in testing announced by the Government following the second wave of attack, the District Administration has capped the number of RT-PCR tests at Government testing centres at K.R.Hospital as a measure to filter unnecessary tests on asymptomatic and very mild symptomatic patients.

At Town Hall and Small Clock Tower, only 150 people will be tested every day for free, based on first-come-first-served basis coupled with issuance of tokens.

With the capping, people who seem eager to get themselves tested for COVID as a precautionary and safe measure, started arriving at the centres despite incessant rains. But most of them had to turn back disappointed as the spot issuance of tokens was stopped once the number reached 150.

Meanwhile, most of the private hospitals, which were conducting hundreds of tests for a fee everyday, too have put a cap on the numbers. Although many hospitals had put up boards capping the number at 100, some of them have further reduced this number to 50, citing lack of testing kits.

Vaccination drive hit

The incessant rains since late last night has hit COVID vaccination drive in the city as people seemed reluctant to come out for vaccination due to inclement weather. Hardly about 20 people who were eligible only for second dose of vaccination had received their jabs at the PHC on Chamaraja Double road till 12.30 pm today. The Centre was witnessing a constant rush of people since the start of the week. But today, thanks to incessant rains, the scenario at the centre was altogether a different one, with few people visiting the Vaccination Booth.

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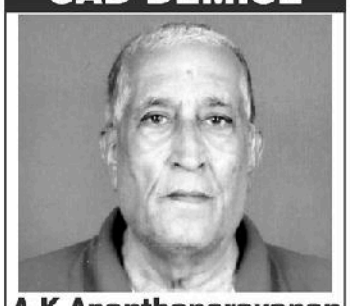
SAD DEMISE



A K Ananthanarayanan (Kuppa)
Passed away on 13/05/2021
Mourned by: Family and friends

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